

Selectboard Site Visit Special Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 23, 2018 at 6:15pm at Hayden Bridge (115 North Calais Road, N. Calais)

Present: Denise Wheeler (Chair), John Brabant (Vice Chair), Rose Pelchuck (Member), Sharon Winn Fannon (Member), Clif Emmons (Member), Katie Lane-Karnas (Recording Secretary), Reid Schenck, Denise Wilder, Michael Fullerton, Chris Cochran, Alfred Larrabee, Alec Portalupi (VT AOT), Doug Newton (engineer), Tammy L. Leno, Bill Fagginger-Auer

1. Call to Order: Denise Wheeler called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm.
2. Public Comment: None.
3. Additions/Changes to Agenda: None.
4. Conversation regarding guardrails: The outdoor meeting reviewed the situation at Hayden Rd. Bridge: the project has been paid for already (90% state grants, 10% Town funds) and any additional cost is the sole responsibility of the Town. The guardrails in question are “weathering steel,” a rusty brown color, and were installed at the end of the bridge project last November with the Selectboard’s intention and stated commitment to return to the consideration of wooden guardrails this spring. The Road Commissioner priced wooden guardrails (they have a steel backing) at \$150 per foot, with the total project approximately \$15,000 plus installation to replace the weathering steel guardrails with wood faced guardrails. Alec Portalupi, Technical Services Engineer, VT AOT attended and answered questions regarding federal and state safety and standards for guard rail installations; the Selectboard stated that Town policy is to select weathering steel. John Brabant pointed out that although the state standard is galvanized gray steel, it is unfortunate that a distinction is not made for small rural towns where dirt roads are not salted, allowing weathering steel to meet the state safety standard.

Alec and engineer Doug Newton differentiated between standards for rails for a bridge and guardrails over a culvert. The Selectboard and meeting attendees considered attaching pressure treated wood as a cosmetic facade to the existing guardrails, how that could be accomplished and how it would look. Each Selectboard and community member in attendance expressed his or her opinion on the best resolution to the question of guardrails at the location. Opinions expressed included concerns over the added expense to the town, wanting to maintain unified character in North Calais with wooden guardrails, finding metal guardrails ugly in an historic district, liking the existing guardrails, and being uncertain how pressure treated wood coverings would look.

The Road Commissioner proposed making wooden flower boxes which would be installed on either side of the bridge, bringing a charming and hand made touch to the bridge. Tammy L. Leno objected to the proposed compromise, stating that the Selectboard next time should

handle the process differently. John Brabant commented that numerous hearings were held, the old bridge was unattractive and dangerous, and guardrails had to be installed ahead of winter last year.

Denise Wheeler made a motion for the Road Commissioner, per his suggestion, to make flower boxes that he will install; North Calais residents will take care of the flower box plantings. The boxes will be installed within two weeks, as long as there are no unforeseen events preventing the Road Commissioner's work. John Brabant seconded the motion. Rose Pelchuck proposed an amendment to the motion: that the creation of the flower boxes is in lieu of making changes to the guardrails. Sharon Winn Fannon seconded the amendment to the motion. The original motion, with the amendment, passed unanimously.

5. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Date: 7/24/2018 Respectfully Submitted, Katie Lane-Karnas, Recording Secretary
Approved by the Selectboard at the 8/27/2018 meeting